

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07653 181323Z
ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 NEA-10
L-03 VO-03 INSE-00 /047 W
-----082338 181935Z /42
R 181241Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2091
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT FOR SCA, D/HA AND EUR/SE, GENEVA FOR BRENNAN

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF, OGEN, EUR/SE
SUBJ: SOVIET ARMENIAN AND ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN REFUGEES (OPERATION
SAFEHAVEN)

REF: ATHENS 1636, STATE 122032

1. REFERENCED DEPTTEL OF MAY 26 INFORMED EMBASSY THAT INS HAD AGAIN
REJECTED DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL TO PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES THE
FEW REFUGEES REMAINING IN ATHENS FROM ORIGINAL GROUP OF ASSYRIAN
AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES TRANSFERRED TO ATHENS FROM BEIRUT DURING THE
EARLY SPRING OF 1976. REFERENCED EMBTEL HAD CONFIRMED THAT 77 OF
THE REFUGEES HAVE RELATIVES IN US, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM ENTERED US
UNDER CONDITIONAL ENTRY DURING COURSE OF OPERATION SAFEHAVEN.

2. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND UNHCR HAVE BEEN UNABLE RESETTLE RESIDUE
OF LATTER PROGRAM AND THESE INDIVIDUALS, APPROXIMATELY 35 FAMILIES,
ARE IN PITIFUL CONDITION, SUBSISTING IN ATHENS THROUGH CHARITY OF
WCC AND ICMC, REJECTED FOR RESETTLEMENT BY US, AUSTRALIA AND
CANADA. LATTER WILL NOT CONSIDER THEM FOR RESETTLEMENT AS ALL
HAVE RELATIVES RESIDING WITHIN U.S.

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3. WITH NO INTENTION OF BEING CONTENTIOUS EMBASSY MUST POINT OUT
THAT OPERATION SAFEHAVEN, AND MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM LEBANON TO
GREECE WAS STIMULATED BY US IN EFFORT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
WHO UNTIL THEN WERE TRAPPED IN LEBANON. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REVIEW
STATE 035197 OF FEBRUARY 12, 1976 WHICH EXHORTED GENEVA, ATHENS,
ROME AND BEIRUT TO TAKE ACTION ASAP, LOOKING TOWARD MOVEMENT OF
REFUGEES FROM LEBANON. DEPARTMENT ALSO MAY WISH TO REVIEW STATE

025671 OF FEB 3, 1976 WHICH SIMILARLY EXPRESSED INTEREST OF USG
IN PLIGHT OF THESE REFUGEES.

4. ALTHOUGH MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM LEBANON TO ATHENS FOR
PROCESSING DID NOT CREATE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBSEQUENTLY
ADMIT THEM INTO US IT DID CREATE RESPONSIBILITY IN PERCEPTION
REFUGEES THEMSELVES AND IN EYES WCC, ICMC AND UNHCR. THIS
PERCEPTION OF US RESPONSIBILITY WAS HEIGHTENED DURING THE OCTOBER
1976 VISIT OF THE THEN ADMINISTRATOR OF SCA, MR. WALENTYNOWICZ.
DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES UNHCR, ICMC, AND WCC, MR.
WALENTYNOWICZ, STRESSED THT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD CONCENTRATE
THEIR RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS CANADA AND
AUSTRALIA, BUT AGREED THAT AFTER SUCH EFFORT US WOULD BE WILLING
RECONSIDER QUESTION OF ADMITTANCE FOR REMAINING REFUGEES (SEE
ATHENS 11082 OF OCT 14, 1976 (NOTAL)). AT TIME OF WALENTYNOWICZ'S
VISIT REMAINING REFUGEES WERE REPORTED AS TOTALING 378 PEOPLE,
INCLUDING EGYPTIAN COPTS. DURING INTERVENING TEN MONTHS VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES SUCCEEDED IN RESETTLING APPROXIMATELY 275 REFUGEES IN
CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. REMAINING REFUGEES ARE SAID BY UNHCR AND
VOLAGS TO HAVE NO HOPE OF RESETTLEMENT UNLESS THERE IS SOME WAY
THAT DEPARTMENT CAN BRING ABOUT ADMITTANCE TO US, WHERE 77 WOULD
BE ABLE TO REJOIN RELATIVES WHO GAINED ADMITTANCE DURING OPERATION
SAFEHAVEN.

5. DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT AND INTERCESSION WITH INS AND THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL, LOOKING TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WOULD
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BE APPRECIATED.
MILLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS07653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770298-1143
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770851/aaaabqim.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4fae1759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 1636, 77 STATE 122032
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1570601
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ARMENIAN AND ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN REFUGEES (OPERATION SAFEHAVEN)
TAGS: SREF, OGEN, UR, SE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4fae1759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009